

**Board of Respiratory Care  
Minutes**

**Date:** February 14, 2006

**Time:** 9:00 a.m., C.S.T.

**Location:** Tennessee Room  
Ground Floor, Cordell Hull Building  
425 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37247-1010

**Members Present:** Billy Alred, Chair  
Shirley Brackett  
James Hunter, II  
Candace Partee  
Timothy McGill  
Delmar Mack, Ed.D.

**Members Absent:** Darryl Jordan, M.D.  
Colleen Schabacker  
Robbie Bell, Ex Officio

**Staff Present:** Marva Swann, Unit Director  
Tomica Walker, Board Administrator  
Ernie Sykes, Advisory Attorney  
Jerry Kosten, Regulations Manager  
Gerry Crownover, Assistant General Counsel  
Lea Phelps, Disciplinary Coordinator  
Denise Moran, Director of Investigations

**Guests Present:** Mike Harkreader, Tennessee Professional Assistance Program

A quorum being present, Mr. Alred, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Office of General Counsel**

Mr. Sykes informed the Board of their responsibilities under the Conflict of Interest Policy. Board members were asked to sign exhibit 4 of the policy in acknowledgement of their understanding of its content.

Mr. Sykes presented to the Board the Office of General Counsel Report as follows:

**Rules:**

Under review by the Attorney General:

- Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1330-1- .22—regarding ABG course requirements

- Tenn. Comp R. & Regs. 1300-1-.05- regarding criminal background checks for initial applicants for licensure
- Tenn. Comp R. & Regs. 1330-1-.02,.03,.19,.20-(05-1386) regarding title, screening panels, equipment delivery, and advertising.

#### Litigation:

The Office of General Counsel, Tennessee Department of Health, currently has twelve (12) open cases pertaining to the Tennessee Board of Respiratory Care. Four (4) cases pertain to Registered Respiratory Therapists; Seven (7) cases pertain to Certified Respiratory Therapists; and one (1) case pertains to Respiratory Care Assistants.

#### **Letter of Reprimand**

Tiffany Stubblefield, CRT - Ms. Stubblefield was not present by agreement of the parties. The state was represented by Gerry Crownover.

The Board found Ms. Stubblefield guilty of unprofessional conduct by practicing as a Certified Respiratory Therapist without a license.

As a result of the above findings a motion was made by Dr. Mack and seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve the letter of reprimand as presented. The motion carried.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Partee and seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2005 Board meeting as amended. The motion carried.

#### **Applicant Interviews/File Reviews**

Steven Boatwright—Mr. Boatwright appeared before the Board seeking licensure as a Certified Respiratory Therapist through reciprocity. Mr. Boatwright had been disciplined in Mississippi for practicing on an expired temporary permit. Upon review by the Board, a motion was made by Ms. Partee and seconded by Ms. Brackett to approve Mr. Boatwright for licensure. The motion carried.

Pamela Lott—Ms. Lott appeared before the Board seeking licensure as a Registered Respiratory Therapist through reciprocity with Katrina displacement. Ms. Lott failed to disclose on her Katrina application that she had a DUI conviction in 2003 in the state of Mississippi. When applying for full licensure she did not disclose this on her application but did disclose this on her mandatory practitioner profile. Upon review by the Board, a motion was made by Dr. Mack and seconded by Mr. Hunter for licensure pending a favorable evaluation from TNPAP. The motion carried.

Margaret Mullins- Ms. Mullins appeared before the Board, seeking ABG Endorsement on her license as a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Upon review by the Board, a motion was made by Ms. Partee and seconded by Ms. Brackett to grant Ms. Mullins ABG Endorsement. The motion carried.

Jennifer Phillips—Ms. Phillips appeared before the Board seeking licensure as a Certified Respiratory Therapist through reciprocity. Ms. Phillips had been convicted of a DUI in 1999 in the state of Pennsylvania. Upon review by the Board, a motion was made by Ms. Partee and seconded by Dr. Mack to approve Ms. Phillips for licensure. The motion carried.

Jonathan Stafford – Mr. Stafford appeared before the Board seeking initial licensure as a Certified Respiratory Therapist. Mr. Stafford had been convicted of shop lifting in 2001. Upon review by the Board, a motion was made by Ms. Partee and seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve Mr. Stafford for licensure. The motion carried.

### **Rules**

Jerry Kosten reported on the Rulemaking Hearing to be held April 25, 2006 regarding an amendment to Rule 1330-1-.22 ABG Endorsement. It is amended by deleting paragraph (2) in its entirety and substituting instead the following language, and is further amended by deleting paragraphs (3) and (4) in their entirety, so that as amended, the new paragraph (2) shall read:

#### **(2) Obtaining ABG Endorsement**

(a) Registered respiratory therapists and certified respiratory therapists can obtain ABG Endorsement by submitting verification to the Board that he/she holds a current CRT or RRT credential issued by the NBRC; or

(b) An individual can obtain ABG Endorsement by submitting verification to the Board of a current “Special Analyst/ABG” license issued by the Tennessee Medical Laboratory Board.

And Rule 1330-1-.19 is amended by adding the following language as new paragraph (8):

(8) Reconsiderations and Stays- The Board authorizes the member who chaired the Board for a contested case to be the agency member to make the decisions authorized pursuant to rule 1360-4-1-.18 regarding petitions for reconsiderations and stays in that case.

That being said, Ms. Partee made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve the rules amendments for a rulemaking hearing. The motion carried.

### **Task Force Meeting Report**

Ms. Partee presented the task force report from the meeting held 02/03/2006 with Colleen Schabacker, Shirley Brackett and herself. This meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the guidelines regarding granting licensees with ABG endorsement. As Tennessee currently has

no stand-alone course for ABG and California College also is no longer offering such a course, the committee felt that that proof of licensees passing the national NBRC exam would be sufficient in that the exam covers ABG analysis. The board concurred and requested that the administrative staff grant ABG to any licensee that the board had denied within the last year when it was determined that California College no longer offered a course. A policy statement clarifying the board's interpretation of ABG credentialing is being prepared by our advisory attorney, Ernie Sykes. A motion was made by Mr. Hunter and seconded by Ms. Partee to accept the changes as presented. The motion carried.

### **Policy Statement**

The Board's advisory attorney Ernie Sykes drafted a policy statement that states whenever a certified respiratory therapist who holds a current ABG endorsement upgrades to registered respiratory therapist, such therapist automatically retain his or her ABG endorsement. A motion was made by Ms. Partee and seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve the policy statement as presented. The motion carried.

### **Investigations and Disciplinary Report**

Denise Moran presented the disciplinary and investigative report. There was an initial carryover of thirteen (13) complaints from December, 2004 with nine (9) new complaint received in 2005. One (1) complaint was closed with a letter of concern. Nine (9) complaints were sent to the Office of General Counsel leaving a total of twelve (12) open complaints at the time of this meeting.

### **Tennessee Professional Assistance Program Report**

Mike Harkreader, Director of TNPAP presented the report. There were four (4) new referrals to TNPAP for the period of October 21, 2005 thru January 19, 2006. Of these referrals one (1) entered into a monitoring agreement making a total of six (6) being monitored at this time; also for this period of time there were two (2) released after evaluation and two (2) in treatment.

### **Administrator's Report**

Tomica Walker presented the Administrator's report. Active current licensee totals are 1990 Registered Respiratory Therapists, 2031 Certified Respiratory Therapists, and 34 Respiratory Care Assistants. There is a benchmark of application processing time set for all Health Related Boards of 14 days for renewals and 100 days for initial applications.

We are exceeding our benchmark of 14 days processing time with regard to renewals with the average time of 1 to 2 days for both RRT's and CRT's and 4 days for RCA's.

We are meeting the benchmark of 100 days processing time for initial licensure with 62 days being the average time for RRT's, and 94 being the average time for CRT's.

For your information, ABG endorsement can now be accessed on the Internet verification system.

Board members were again reminded to obtain prior travel approval through the Administrative staff before making travel arrangements outside of the State of Tennessee in order to ensure reimbursement.

### **Correspondence**

The Board received correspondence from Lynda England Director of the Medical Laboratory Board asking the Board to clarify the scope of practice for respiratory therapists. She states that laboratory procedures that are familiar to her include the performance of arterial blood gases with the associated ph concentration that is performed on a blood gas analyzer. She inquired as to whether the performance of ph on body fluids is included in the scope of practice. After discussion the Board concluded that it is within their scope of practice for a respiratory therapist, and that allowing a therapist to perform the procedure should be left up to the discretion of the employer.

### **Ratifications**

A motion was made by Dr. Mack and seconded by Mr. Hunter to approve the following applicants for Registered Respiratory Therapists, Reinstated Registered Respiratory Therapists, Certified Respiratory Therapists, and Reinstated Certified Respiratory Therapists. The motion carried.

### **Licensed Certified Respiratory Therapist**

Hajar Abdallah  
Fred Allan Ballard  
Ronnie L Baxter  
Jennifer Hensley Bise  
Jennifer Brown Bishop  
Robert J Byers  
Kimberly Antoinette Campbell  
Tonia Crocker Cavender  
Christopher C Clancy  
Sheena Elaine Clark  
Robert Joseph Compretta, JR  
Trisha Ann Coughlin  
Penny Farmer Cozort  
Robin Swanier Dedeaux  
Kimberly Hawks Dennis  
Tari Broady Dickerson  
Angela Randolph Dillard  
William Jason Faulkner  
Shelli Dishman Ferrell  
Linda Gail Fletcher

Tracy L Forrester  
Arlene N French  
Kristy Lynn Gathings  
Debra G Hall  
Jennifer Jones Harlan  
Jena S Harris  
Jamie Malone Hopper  
Mark Anthony Jackson  
Tikita L Johnson  
D'Ann Butler Jordan  
Gloria Keyes  
Pamela P Krusac  
Chivonne Poston Lewis  
Laurie Gilman Lindermann  
Evelyn A Massengill  
Latonya Yvonne Mays  
Jacqueline C McKnight  
Latoya Nicole Mitchell  
Kathleen R Murry  
Joani Lyn O'Connor  
Imuentiyan Linda Omosigho  
Kayla Deshea Pedigo  
Linda Raisor Puckett  
Pamela Rimuka  
Katrina Lynn Rogers  
Charles William Sallis  
April Pennington Scribner  
Kendice Lashea Stoner  
Jacqueline Marie Stuart  
Hairline Sylvestre  
Andrea Burress Thompson  
Candice Brim Tigue  
Monica Walker Turner  
Julia Michelle Whitt  
Lori Liford Widner  
Sandra Johnson Wiltz

**Reinstated Licensed Certified Respiratory Therapist**

Rupa Susan Stephen Crite  
Mary Elizabeth Graham

**Licensed Registered Respiratory Therapist**

Jodi Michelle Asher  
Timothy Guy Belew

Kerry Anthony Bordere  
John Douglas Brady  
Anise Clark  
John D Decker  
Emma Darlene Earnhart  
Michele Johnson Fannin  
Shelli Dishman Ferrell  
Michael Jon Fischer  
Christa Danielle Grah  
Michael Steven Harrell  
Jessica Louise Hash  
Barkley Alan Hatton  
Erin Nicole Hicks  
Eligah Lamont Johnson  
Mary Kay Jungbluth  
Robert Alan Lamb  
Vivian Cox Lebaroff  
Sondra Ann Lind  
Nina Marie Manning  
Willie James McKnight, JR.  
Mark L Pierce  
Lyeart Pride  
David E Purdy  
Candy Wilson Robinson  
Andrea Grizzle Sayler  
Barbara Garrett Seymore  
Tonya Lewis Shott  
Ryan Nicole Smith  
Tricia Whitten Thomas  
Jason Scott Tilley  
Shannon Whitehead Timmons  
Avis Louis Trepagnier  
Melisha Gentle Warren

**Licensed Reinstated Registered Respiratory Therapist**

Lynn Marie Buchanan  
Amanda C Carter  
Bob G Neely  
Richard R Taylor

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm.

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Candace Partee, Secretary

